

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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SUBJ: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCANDAL

REF: STATE 122265

1. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM MAY 7 SUNDAY TRIBUNE
ARTICLE BY EUGENE HUGO ENTITLED "THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
RHOODIE EMPIRE". ARTICLE SUMMARIZES BACKGROUND OF DEPARTMENT
OF INFORMATION SCANDAL AND DESCRIBES NUMEROUS "UNORTHODOX"
ACTIVITIES BY DEPARTMENT IN U.S. OVER PAST THREE YEARS.
BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE IN WASHINGTON THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS MORE
PERSONNEL THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY EXCEPT THE SOVIET UNION.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD - ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE AND AMERICA - DR.
RHOODIE DEVELOPED A LOBBY TO REACH ALL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE
INCLUDING LEGISLATORS AND CIVIL SERVANTS.

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WITH TENTACLES ALREADY REACHING INTO ALMOST EVERY CORNER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, DR. RHOODIE KEPT UP THE AGGRESSIVE
PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESSURE WITH REGULAR TRIPS EVERY YEAR TO
ORGANISE AND ADDRESS FUNCTIONS.

IN AMERICA, THESE FUNCTIONS INCLUDED 1,000 DOLLAR A PLATE
DINNERS ATTENDED BY TOP POLITICAL TALENT.

TO KEEP THE INTEREST GOING, POLITICIANS, THEIR AIDES, ACADEMICS AND JOURNALISTS WERE GIVEN ROUND TRIPS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

IN THE UNITED STATES THE CAMPAIGN WAS BOLSTERED BY AN ARRAY OF HIGHLY PAID PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST.

IN WASHINGTON DR. RHOODIE SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF COLLIER, SHANNON, RILL AND EDWARDS AND PAID THEM 150,000 DOLLARS A YEAR, TO WORK FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

TOP LOBBYIST FOR THE FIRM, DONALD DE KIEFFER HAD HUNDREDS OF MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND MADE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO A NUMBER OF TOP US POLITICIANS.

DE KIEFFER SUBSEQUENTLY FORMED ANOTHER COMPANY CALLED THE DE KIEFFER ASSOCIATES TO CARRY ON THE WORK.

IN NEW YORK, DR. RHOODIE CONTRACTED THE PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM OF SYDNEY S. BARRON FOR R575,000 A YEAR. BARRON HAS NOW FORMED A SOUTH AFRICAN BRANCH RUN BY FORMER INFORMATION EMPLOYEE LES DE VILLIERS.

ONE EXAMPLE OF SUCCESS FOR THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, WAS WHEN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS TAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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UP AN ANTI-TRANSKEI RESOLUTION IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

THE DAY BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION, DE KIEFFER DELIVERED A CRITICAL FACT SHEET TO ED FUELNER, STAFF DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE.

FIVE MONTHS EARLIER FUELNER HAD TAKEN A 10-DAY TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA PAID FOR BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOUNDATION.

FUELNER GAVE A COPY OF THE FACT SHEET TO CONGRESSMENT PHILIP CRANE, AN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE SYMPATHETIC TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHO WITH HIS WIFE AND FIVE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, HAD BEEN GIVEN A SUBSIDISED TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA IN JANUARY 1975.

CRANE TOOK THE FLOOR TO SPEAK AGAINST THE RESOLUTION AND IN THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS INTRODUCED INTO THE DEBATE THE CRITICAL FACT SHEET DRAFTED BY DE KIEFFER. HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THAT PART OF HIS SPEECH.

TAKING THE FLOOR AFTER CRANE, WAS CONGRESSMAN JOHN DENT, AN OLD FRIEND OF DEKIEFFER WHO HAS HAD REGULAR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DE KIEFFER. DENT, TOO, HAD TRAVELLED TO

SOUTH AFRICA THE PREVIOUS YEAR ON A PRIVATELY SUBSIDISED TRIP THAT DE FEIFFER HELPED ARRANGE.

DE KEIFFER HAD ALSO GIVEN DENT A COPY OF HIS PRO-SOUTH AFRICAN FACT SHEET.

THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, ALERTED ONLY 12 HOURS EARLIER, HAD TURNED OUT 200 COPIES OF A HANDSOMELY-PRINTED BROCHURE ON THE TRANSKEI.

THAT YEAR DR. RHOODIE HAD ALSO MADE A TRIP TO WASHINGTON DURING WHICH HE ADDRESSED CAPITOL HILL AIDES AND PUT IN A STRONG PLEA FOR RECOGNITION OF THE TRANSKEI.

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THE RESOLUTION, WHICH NEEDED A TWO-THIRD VOTE FOR APPROVAL, FAILED BY 23 VOTES. OF 11 HOUSE MEMBERS WHO HAD VISITED SOUTH AFRICA ON SUBSIDISED TRIPS OVER THE PRVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, 10 VOTED AGAINST IT. END TEXT.
FARBER

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